Message Text

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R 172111 Z APR 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E. O. 11652: ADS, DECON 4-20-73

TAGS: PFOR, LY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

- 1. TEXT OF SECTION ON LIBYA IN SECRETARY'S 1972 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19 FOLLOWS FOR POST INFORMATION:
- 2. QUOTE (A) SINCE THE PRESENT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER IN SEPTEMBER 1969, THE EXTENT OF FORMAL U. S.- LIBYAN RELATIONSHIPS HAS SHRUNK. THAT TREND CONTINUED DURING 1972. ON FEBRUARY 5 AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES FORMALLY TERMINATED A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS WHICH HAD ALREADY BECOME LARGELY INOPERABLE, INCLUDING THE 1954 AGREEMENT ON MILITARY BASES AND THE 1957 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. IN MARCH THE SMALL MILITARY LIAISON STAFF OF THE EMBASSY WAS TERMINATED. IN AUGUST THE AMERICAN STAFF AT THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, ALREADY REDUCED IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WAS CUT BACK STILL FURTHER AT THE REQUEST OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME THE EMBASSY OFFICE IN BENGHAZI WAS CLOSED.
- (B) CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH LIBYA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE EXPANDED THROUGH NON- U.S. GOVERNMENT CHANNELS BY STUDENT EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LIBYA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE ARE OVER 600 LIBYAN STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, MANY OF WHOM ARE STUDYING AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL.

(C) WE RETAIN IMPORTANT AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN LIBYA, MOSTLY IN THE OIL SECTOR. OIL PRODUCTION THERE, HOW-EVER, HAS STEADILY DECLINED SINCE 1970. PETROLEUM CONSERVATION REGULATIONS ARE A PARTIAL CAUSE. IN ADDITION, MARKET FACTORS HAVE MADE LIBYAN OIL LESS COMPETITIVE WITH CRUDE FROM OTHER SOURCES. END QUOTE ROGERS

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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